April 2, 2020
Dear Cheverus Community,

How is your family adjusting to the new realities of social distancing? While much seems beyond our control at this time, the faculty and staff of Cheverus have been working hard to maintain a strong sense of connection and calm. If your world is anything like the Moran household, it’s filled with new daily schedules, Zoom meetings, and attempts to get outside whenever possible. We hope you and all your family members are safe, and as best as is possible under the circumstances making the most of Lent’s opportunities for prayer and reflection in anticipation of Easter.

I’m writing to you today to update you on a few decisions we’ve made in recent days, and to anticipate some of your questions about the weeks and months ahead. I’m sure few questions are bigger on most people’s minds than...

When will we return to school?
Following Governor Mills’ announcement that social distancing guidelines will stay in place until April 30, we have adjusted our plans to resume in-person classes on April 27. As of today, the earliest possible day we could return to classes would be Friday, May 1, and so we will extend our Purple/Gold class rotation past Spring Break. We are also working on scenarios for returning in mid-May and for extending remote learning through the end of the school year. Our next decision regarding any of these scenarios will be made on or before Wednesday, April 15.

The Arrupe Project
With any of the scenarios we’re working on (including returning on May 1), the Arrupe Project will not happen in its traditional format. The Arrupe Project is a graduation requirement, so over the coming weeks we will construct a research/academically based project exploring themes of service, equity and justice for seniors to complete during the month of May. This could coincide with an online service campaign that would not put students at risk.

Disappointing as this news will be to our seniors and their families, sending seniors out into nursing homes, homeless shelters, and other schools at any point over the coming months does not seem prudent nor responsible to our students or the Greater Portland area community members they would serve. Our priority with our senior class is to successfully complete their high school careers and attend the graduation events.

Senior Prom, Baccalaureate Mass and Dinner, and Graduation
We are certainly aware of the questions and anxieties our seniors and their families have regarding the events that culminate their time at Cheverus. Though it is still too early to determine if Senior Prom, Baccalaureate Mass and Dinner, and Graduation will occur as scheduled, we are committed to hosting all of these events as soon as we can deem it safe to do so. In our planning for May and June we are also discussing alternate dates and venues for any and all of these events.

Spring Sports
Though officially the MPA still has April 27 listed as the start date for spring sports and just last week relaxed its restrictions on coaches contacting students before the season begins, I would expect we will hear soon about their plans to abide by this shift to April 30. If not, we would not allow our athletes to meet, practice or compete before May 1.

What else is on your mind? Please feel free to contact me with other questions, comments and concerns. We will continue to keep the COVID-19 section of our website updated, and the Cheverus Newsletter will continue to be our regular source for conveying information each Sunday afternoon.

Peace,
Dr. John Moran
Principal